



February 14, 2023

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2600

LeadingAge Oregon is an association of nonprofit and mission driven organizations dedicated to advancing quality aging services. On behalf of LeadingAge Oregon and its members, we urge support for House Bill ("HB") 2600, expanding the representation on the Oregon State Board of Nursing.

According to the Oregon Center for Nursing's recent 2022 workforce study, study participants directly expressed concern that the Oregon State Board of Nursing ("OSBN") "does not have any representation from the long-term care sector, which may lead to decisions that affect organizations and nurses in long-term care not considering those interests adequately."

Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants and Licensed Practical Nurses are critical to the aging services sector. Additionally, the needs of residents within long-term care communities are uniquely different than patients in hospital settings. Existing statutes already require the Governor to consider the composition of the Board based on geographic areas and ethnic groups. HB 2600 does not make any other changes to the existing requirements, it merely encourages balanced representation according to the setting of care.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Milligan".

Kristin Milligan
Chief Executive Officer
LeadingAge Oregon